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Energy Secretary Bodman, Gov. Kempthorne celebrate inauguration of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman and Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne today commemorated the initiation of a new program at the Idaho National Laboratory called the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES). The CAES is a new facility for advanced energy research, technology and engineering education seeking to develop innovative ways to meet America's future energy needs. The Center will place primary focus on nuclear energy technology development.

At today's event, held at the Bennion Student Union Building in Idaho Falls, Secretary Bodman said, "Technology is the answer to meeting our growing energy needs. By developing programs like CAES, we are investing in the next generation of scientists and engineers who could hold the key to unlocking our energy future."

Consistent with the Idaho National Lab, the CAES facility will concentrate on preparing future researchers, designers, builders and operators of a revitalized nuclear power sector. The facility will be built around four main areas: the Center for Nuclear Fuels and Materials Research; the Center for Space Nuclear Research; the Center for Nuclear Systems Design and Analysis; and the Center for Advanced Modeling and Simulation.

The CAES is a collaborative venture among the Department of Energy; the state of Idaho; a consortium of three Idaho research universities (Idaho University Consortium); the National University Consortium (NUC); Battelle Energy Alliance; and the Idaho National Laboratory. The CAES is expected to assume nonprofit status as an independent center or "Joint Institute" by 2010, and will play a key role in United States and global energy research programs.

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